

Young people readily share joy-filled faith

We will celebrate Diocesan Youth Day on Sunday. Hundreds of our 12-, 13-, and 14-year-old boys and girls will gather at the Geneseo campus of the State University of New York. Our gifted, lively young friends will play, pray, talk, eat, question, think, sing and have themselves a wonderful time. So will all of us who will have the joy of spending the day with them.

I find many joys in such a day. One of the great ones is to watch the youngsters meet and make friends with their peers from parishes all over our diocese. Such opportunities seem to expand their horizons and offer them the encouragement that there are many others like them who love their faith and want to grow in the Lord. It seems that they find strength in the number and variety of people their age who deal with the same issues they deal with and who share their journey of faith. To me that speaks volumes about the importance of community in the lives of all of us.

A second joy I have experienced in such days is the bright and good spirit the kids share with one another. To be sure, they have problems and challenges in their lives. Indeed, some of them cope with difficulties that would be heavy for the most mature adult. But when they gather, they manifest a spirit of openness to one another and a willingness to grow, which I find most refreshing. They remind me of important faith realities I can easily forget in the press of everyday living. I mean such things as Jesus wanting us to know his joy;

along the way



BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

hoping that our joy might be complete; and Jesus saying he came that we might have life in abundance.

When these young people, in that fashion, remind us that our faith is about life, hope, new possibilities and the promise of joy, they truly are sources of renewal in our community of faith.

The third joy I associate with Diocesan Youth Days is the affectionate, committed presence of the youth ministers who stand in support of the young people of our diocese. I think of Michael Theisen, diocesan coordinator for youth ministry; the Diocesan Youth Council; the gifted youth ministers serving in a growing number of our parish communities; and of the many volunteers who translate their love for our young into generous service on their behalf.

When I am with them I always come away deeply heartened by their generosity. I also learn a lot from the respectful, loving ways in which they serve among our youths.

I rarely, if ever, think about the pleasing

development of youth ministry in our diocese without a prayer of gratitude for Pope John Paul II. From the earliest days of his ministry to the church universal, he has been a strong reminder to all of us of the dignity of our young people and of their importance in the life of the church. His commitment to them and his ways with them have been beautiful to behold and a great encouragement to many of us. I think we still enjoy the benefits of his 1993 visit to Denver for World Youth Day.

Let me conclude this reflection by inviting you to think about our young friends. Who are the young people you know? What are they like? What are their interests? What are the difficulties they are facing? What do you think are the important questions they have on their minds? Do you ever have opportunity to converse with them about matters of common interest? If not, would you like to have that opportunity?

Are you familiar with the youth ministry that's happening in your parish? Would you like to know more about it and/or contribute to its development? Do you have some ideas about how we can more consistently and effectively support and encourage our youths?

Thanks for considering these questions. I encourage you to share your responses with your pastor and/or youth minister(s). If you prefer to send your thoughts directly to me, I will be sure they get to folks who will benefit from them.

Peace to all.

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JUNE BINGO CALENDAR

SPECIAL PAID ADVERTISEMENT ■ CALL FOR HOLIDAY CANCELLATIONS

BINGO

SUNDAY	
6:15 p.m. St. Stanislaus Church 1150 Hudson Ave., Rochester 716-544-9951	
7:30 p.m. Holy Family Church 1099 Jay St., Door M, Rochester 716-328-3110	
7:30 p.m. St. Boniface Church 15 Whalin St., Rochester 716-271-1468	
TUESDAY	
10:00 a.m. Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church 716-467-2725	
7:30 p.m. St. Stanislaus Church 1150 Hudson Ave., Rochester 716-544-9951	
7:30 p.m. St. Helena Church Gates Center Bingo, Westmar Plaza 716-235-1210	
7:30 p.m. St. Francis Xavier 316 Bay St. (School Hall) (716) 288-9700 or 482-3211	
WEDNESDAY	
7:30 p.m. Holy Family Home School Assoc. 1099 Jay St., Door M, Rochester 716-328-3110	
THURSDAY	
7:30 p.m. St. Stanislaus Church 1150 Hudson Ave., Rochester 716-544-9951	
FRIDAY	
8:00 p.m. St. Marks Church 54 Kuhn Rd., Rochester 716-225-3710	
SATURDAY	
12:30 p.m. Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church/St. Andrew School, 716-467-2725	
7:30 p.m. Good Shepherd Church 3288 E. Henrietta Rd., Rochester 716-334-3518	
8:00 p.m. St. Thomas the Apostle Church 41 Colbrook Dr., Rochester 716-343-3323	

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Catholic Courier (USPS 135-580) Vol. 107 No. 35 May 30, 1996
 Published weekly except the last Thursday in December.
 Subscription rates: single copy, 75¢; one-year subscription in U.S., \$20.00; Canada and foreign \$20.00 plus postage. Offices: 1150 Buffalo Rd., Rochester, N.Y. 14624, 716/328-4340. Periodicals postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.
 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Catholic Courier, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624-0379

PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY?

THE MONTHLY PRAYER

JESUS PRAYER FOR HIS PRIESTS

The following prayer was dictated by Our Lord to Sister Josefa Menendez at Poitiers, France, on the Feast of the Sacred Heart, June 3, 1921, with the instructions: "Josefa! Repeat these words daily!"

O Jesus, by Thy most loving Heart, I implore Thee to inflame with zeal for Thy love and glory all the priests of the world, all missionaries and those whose office it is to preach Thy word, that on fire with holy zeal, they may snatch souls from the devil and lead them into the shelter of Thy Heart, where for ever they may glorify Thee.

Imprimatur: E. Morogh Bernard, Vic. Gen. Westmonasterii, May 5, 1953

MONTHLY PRAYER

Prayer Suggestions:
 Mass
 Rosary
 Fasting
 Day Offering
 Eucharistic Adoration
 Offering of Sufferings
 Divine Mercy Chaplet

Or whatever the Lord inspires you to offer Him on behalf of His Priest

JUNE, 1996
DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, NY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Look for the July MPRP Calendar in the June 27th Catholic Courier						Ordination 1 Francis Fusco & Douglas Della Pietra
2 Theodore J. Auble	3 Raymond W. Booth	4 Francis Vogt	5 William A. Moorby	6 Paul G. Wohlrab	7 John Huber, CSB	8 Paul J. Tomasso
9 Leo J. Mans	10 William B. Holberton	11 Bernard F. Dollen	12 Most Rev. Matthew H. Clark	13 Joseph V. Versage	14 Jerome Machar, OCSO	15 Michael F. Conboy
16 Kip F. Corriveau	17 Peter J. Etlinger, CSA	18 George H. Hill	19 Winfried M. Kellner	20 Dennis R. Sewar	21 John Potuliks	22 Paul R. Schnacky
23 John J. Steger	24 Robert G. Miller	25 Eugene R. Weis	26 Robert J. Winterkorn	27 James F. O'Connell	28 Brian E. Jeffers	29 Robert J. 29 Kania 30 Leo J. Klem, CSB

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